

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 10 were amended and no claims were added or deleted. As a result, Claims 1-7 and 10-23 are pending in the case.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 16, 21 and 23; objected to Claims 5-7, 11-15, 17, 19-20 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; and rejected Claims 1-4, 10 and 18 under Section 102 as being anticipated by the patent to Johnson.

By this Amendment, Applicant has removed the language from Claims 1, 2 and 10 calling for the use of non-explosive ammunition and adding language in the claims requiring the removal of burnable material. Neither of these steps are disclosed in Johnson, US 4,616,711. Johnson calls for discloses an aircraft dropping exploding canisters of foam (non-explosive ammunition) to create the back-boundaries/perimeter of the back-burn area. In light of the changes above, applicant believes all of the claims now patentably distinguish over the cited art.

The Examiner and Commissioner are hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this Response or refund any overpayments associated with this Response to our deposit account, Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

In view of the above, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance; an action to this end is earnestly requested. If it would expedite the progress of this Application through the examination process, the Examiner is authorized to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

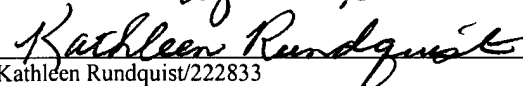
Dated: 11 April 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 11, 2005.


Kathleen Rundquist/222833